



PRESS RELEASE

City of Arts & Innovation

Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RPD Arrests Seven Subjects for Furnishing Alcohol to Minors during a Statewide Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation

On March 9, 2019, Detectives from the Riverside Police Department's Vice Unit participated in Alcohol Beverage Control's (ABC) statewide Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation. During the operation, the detectives arrested seven subjects at six different locations in the city, for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors. One of the arrests included a clerk from Pine Liquor selling alcohol to a minor.

The Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which targets adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of the Vice Unit, will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol. If the adults agree to purchase alcohol for the minor, detectives then arrest and cite the adult for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics show they generally have a higher rate of drunken driving crashes than adults. Studies also show the combination of alcohol and youth tends to increase criminal conduct. This project is part of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control's Education and Teen Alcohol Enforcement Program Grant, funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

